

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the position of the Office Action, which rejects claims 1, 2, 7-10, 14, 18, 22 26, 33, 34, 36, 37, 47, 48, 50, 51, 61, 62, 64, 65, 77, 78, 83, 84, 89, 90, 95 and 96, have cancelled these claims in order to achieve an early allowance of claims 4-6, 11-13, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23-25, 28-32, 38-46, 52-60, 66-74, 79-82, 85-88, 91-94 and 97-100, which stand now in the application.

Claim 5 was amended to correct the dependence of said claim from 1 to 11.

The second claim 94 was renumbered to be 95, and the claims 95-99 were renumbered 96-98 per the Examiner's instructions.

No Fee is due.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim objections

1. The remarks of the Examiner are acknowledged. Applicants have renumbered the second claim 94 to be claim 95, and claims 95-96 to be claims 96-100 per the instructions of the Examiner.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

2. The comments of the Examiner are acknowledged.
3. Claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 14, 26, 30, 36, 37, 47, 50, 51, 61, 64, 65, 77, 83, 89 and 95 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Smith (U.S. 6,353,981 B1).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the position of the Office Action, but they accept it for the reasons stated above.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

4. The comments of the Examiner are acknowledged.
5. Claims 2, 8, 34, 48 and 62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Smith.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the position of the Office Action, but they accept it for the reasons stated above.

6. Claims 18 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Smith in view of Vassiliou (US 6,279,207 B1).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the position of the Office Action, but they accept it for the reasons stated above.

7. Claims 78 and 84, 90 and 96 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Smith in view of Smith et al. (US6 381,811 B2).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the position of the Office Action, but they accept it for the reasons stated above.

Allowable subject matter

8. The comments of the Examiner regarding the allowance of claims 4-6, 11-13, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23-25, 28-32, 38-46, 52-60, 66-74, 79-82, 85-88, 91-94 and 97-100 are acknowledged.

Response to Arguments

1-4. The comments of the Examiner are acknowledged, but Applicants respectfully traverse the position of the Office Action for the aforementioned reasons.

Conclusion

The comments of the Examiner are acknowledged.